

Cambodia

Q & A

Questions and photos by Dr. Steven Martin

Cambodia has a long and rich history of peoples, cultures and languages.

What is the official language spoken by the people of Cambodia today?



- A. **Mon**, an ancient language spoken in the region
- B. **French**, which was introduced during the 19th century
- C. **Thai** language, given the long relationship between the two countries
- D. **Khmer** language, which has been influenced over time by Mon speakers

Cambodia was deeply influenced by the culture and history of India – characterized as an “Indianization” of the region.

What was the first great Indian religion to be adopted by the people of Cambodia?



- A. Theravada Buddhism** (also called Hinayana, the lesser vehicle)
- B. Hinduism** (also called the Sanātana Dharma, the eternal law)
- C. Mahayana Buddhism** (also called the greater vehicle)
- D. Jainism** (harmlessness liberation of the soul)

Cambodia is a country with deep historical significance and is known for the construction of enormous stone temples.

What is the name of the largest religious temple ever built in Cambodia and Southeast Asia?



- A. The Royal Palace** of Phnom Penh which serves as the royal residence of the king of Cambodia
- B. Wat Phnom**, built in 1372 with its tall pagoda named “Wat Preah Chedey Borapaut”
- C. Angkor Wat**, built in Siem Reap Province
- D. Beng Mealea**, the amazing jungle temple

The French were a great colonial power who occupied Cambodia, incorporating it into “French Indochina”.

Approximately how many years did the French stay Cambodia?



- A. **Over 50 years**, beginning 1887, when it was inducted as French protectorate.
- B. **Over 100 years**, as the French had already established a colony in Cochinchina (present-day southern Vietnam) in 1867
- C. **Over 200 years**, as the French had already been in Southeast Asia for a long time
- D. **The French never actually occupied** Cambodia because it was vassal state of the kingdom of Siam which had annexed its western provinces

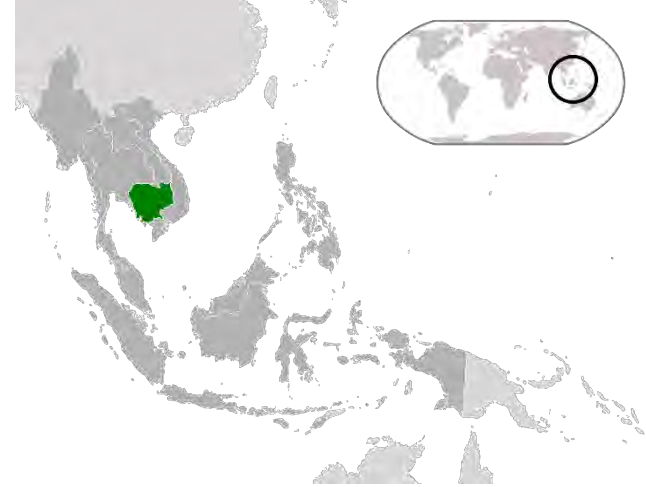
The Geography of Cambodia is characterized as the flood basin of the Mekong River.

What is the name of Cambodia's great lake, the largest in Southeast Asia?



- A. The great **Mekong**, mother of rivers
- B. The **Tonle Sap**, which changes with the seasons
- C. The **Siem Reap River** originating in the sacred Phnom Kulen (Kulen Mountains)
- D. The beautiful crater lake of **Yak Loum**

Answers



Q1 – D. Khmer language, which has been influenced over time by Mon speakers.

Q2 – B. Hinduism (also called the Sanātana Dharma, the eternal law)

Q3 – C. Angkor Wat, built in Siem Reap Province

Q4 – A. Over 50 years, beginning 1887, when it was inducted as French protectorate.

Q5 – B. The Tonle Sap, which changes with the seasons